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March 12, 2001

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, Phase II, CC Docket No. 94-102, **Ex Parte**

Dear Ms. Salas:

On March 8, 2001, representatives of Cingular Wireless met with Kris Monteith, Blaise Scinto, Dan Grosh, Marty Liebman and Pat Forster, all of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau concerning the above referenced subject.

Brian Fontes, Ben Almond and Jim Bugel, all of Cingular Wireless met with the staff and Gary Hight and Andrew Clegg, both of Cingular Wireless, participated in the discussion via conference bridge from Atlanta, Georgia.

The purpose of the meeting was to update the staff concerning Cingular's implementation plans for Phase II. The meeting commenced with a discussion of technologies under consideration for Cingular's GSM markets. It was mentioned that some handset vendors are now claiming that EOTD handsets will be available during the fourth quarter of 2001. Cingular is reconsidering the use of EOTD handsets because the availability of assisted GPS handsets has now been delayed until the first quarter of year 2003. Cingular favors the use of GPS handsets for, among other reasons, the purported accuracy of the GPS handsets but may initially deploy EOTD handsets due to its fourth quarter availability. The Cingular representatives also discussed cost issues for handset and base station equipment and the status of results from EOTD field trials.

The remaining part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of Phase II implementation for Cingular's TDMA markets. It was mentioned that Cingular has signed nondisclosure agreements with several network-based technology vendors. It is Cingular's assessment that the network-based technologies currently under review do not meet the FCC's accuracy standards. It was also mentioned that one of the vendors does not have capability to timely meet the product volume supply Cingular would need. The attached newspaper article was provided to the staff, concerning Cingular's technology

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switch to GSM for a few of its markets. A brief discussion ensued concerning the complexity meeting Phase II requirements for markets in technology transition to GSM.

The representatives mentioned that Cingular is strongly considering first office applications (FOA beta testing) for some network-based products. Cingular's preference is to conduct the FOAs under the conditions where: (1) nondisclosure agreements would not be involved with participating vendors; and (2) PSAPs are willing participants and have the necessary interface equipment.

There was a brief discussion concerning the submission of a potential waiver petition for Phase II. The staff made it clear that any waiver petition must fully describe the technology deployment and commitment plans of the Company.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the undersigned on 202-419-3020.

Sincerely,

Ben G. Almond
Vice President-Federal Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

Cc: Kris Monteith
Blaise Scinto
Dan Grosh
Marty Liebman
Pat Forster

Cingular Wireless changing to more common technology

By Michael E. Kanell
mkanell@ajc.com

Cingular Wireless announced Wednesday it has moved its Seattle and Spokane markets to the technology known as GSM — a first step toward an expected switch of its national network to that technology.

Although officials won't talk about plans, they do praise GSM, or global system for mobile communications, as a data-friendly technology that will also give Cingular users worldwide "roaming" ability, said Dave Williams, executive vice president for the Atlanta-based company.

Cingular, the nation's second-largest wireless provider, bought the Washington markets in September from Atlanta-based GTE Wireless, paying an undisclosed amount for the licenses, networks and staff. That system used a technology known as CDMA — or code division multiple access.

GSM has the world's most common wireless technology, with 456 million subscribers.

"It really is the global standard now," Williams said.

WHY ROAMING ENDS

Most U.S. carriers use one of three technologies — CDMA, TDMA and GSM — with cell phones. Callers cannot use their wireless phones if they roam into an area that is served by a system different from theirs. Cingular Wireless has been using TDMA but is switching to GSM, the world's most common wireless technology.

Other wireless carriers would disagree. But all are likely to revamp their networks in the next few years when what is known as 3G — the third generation — technologies are ready. GSM proponents say it is the best bridge to those new technologies. Of Cingular's 20 million subscribers, about 12 percent — in California, Nevada, the Carolinas and Tennessee — are on GSM. But most of the network, including Atlanta, is TDMA — time division multiple access.

In Washington, Cingular's customers have been told they can trade their GTE phones for new GSM phones.